

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula District 2013 Tanner Crab Seasons

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has completed analysis of the 2012 Tanner crab survey results from the Kodiak, Chignik, and South Peninsula districts. The Kodiak and South Peninsula districts will open for commercial Tanner crab fisheries in 2013. The Kodiak District will open with a total guideline harvest level (GHL) of 660,000 pounds. The South Peninsula District will open with a total GHL of 230,000 pounds. Guideline harvest levels for districts and sections for the 2013 season are as follows:

<u>District/Section</u>	<u>GHL (pounds)</u>
Kodiak District	
Northeast Section	Closed
Eastside Section	520,000
Southeast Section	140,000
Southwest Section	Closed
Westside Section	Closed
North Mainland Section	Closed
South Mainland Section	Closed
Semidi Island Overlap Section	<u>Closed</u>
Total Kodiak District	660,000
Chignik District	Closed
South Peninsula District	
Eastern Section	230,000
Western Section	<u>Closed</u>
Total South Peninsula District	230,000

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Kodiak District. The 2013 Kodiak District Tanner crab GHL is below 2,000,000 pounds; therefore, the regulatory pot limit is **20 pots per vessel**.

Tanner crab GHLS for 2013 are set at 520,000 pounds in the Eastside Section and 140,000 pounds in the Southeast Section. Harvest rates will be monitored inseason and subsection closures may occur based on fishery performance and harvest distribution. Due to the uneven distribution of legal Tanner crab in the Southeast Section, a portion of the GHL will be reserved for offshore effort.

In the Eastside Section, inner Kiliuda Bay inside a line west of 153° 00.00' W long. and Ugak Bay inside a line from Gull Point (57° 23.00' N lat and 152° 36.10' W long) to Pasagshak Point (57° 25.40' N lat and 152° 29.40' W long) will be closed to protect sublegal and female Tanner crab.

The Northeast, Southwest, Westside and North and South Mainland sections mature male abundance estimates remain below their respective harvest strategy thresholds necessary for commercial exploitation and will remain closed.

The Semidi Island Overlap Section may open when the Southwest Section of the Kodiak District or the Chignik District open to commercial fishing. Neither the Southwest Section nor Chignik District will open in 2013; therefore the Semidi Island Overlap Section will remain closed.

Chignik District. The Chignik District was above regulatory threshold for opening a fishery but below the minimum GHL threshold of 200,000 pounds. Therefore, the Chignik District commercial Tanner crab fishery will remain closed in 2013.

South Peninsula District. The 2013 South Peninsula District Tanner crab GHL is below 2,000,000 pounds; therefore, the regulatory pot limit is **30 pots per vessel**.

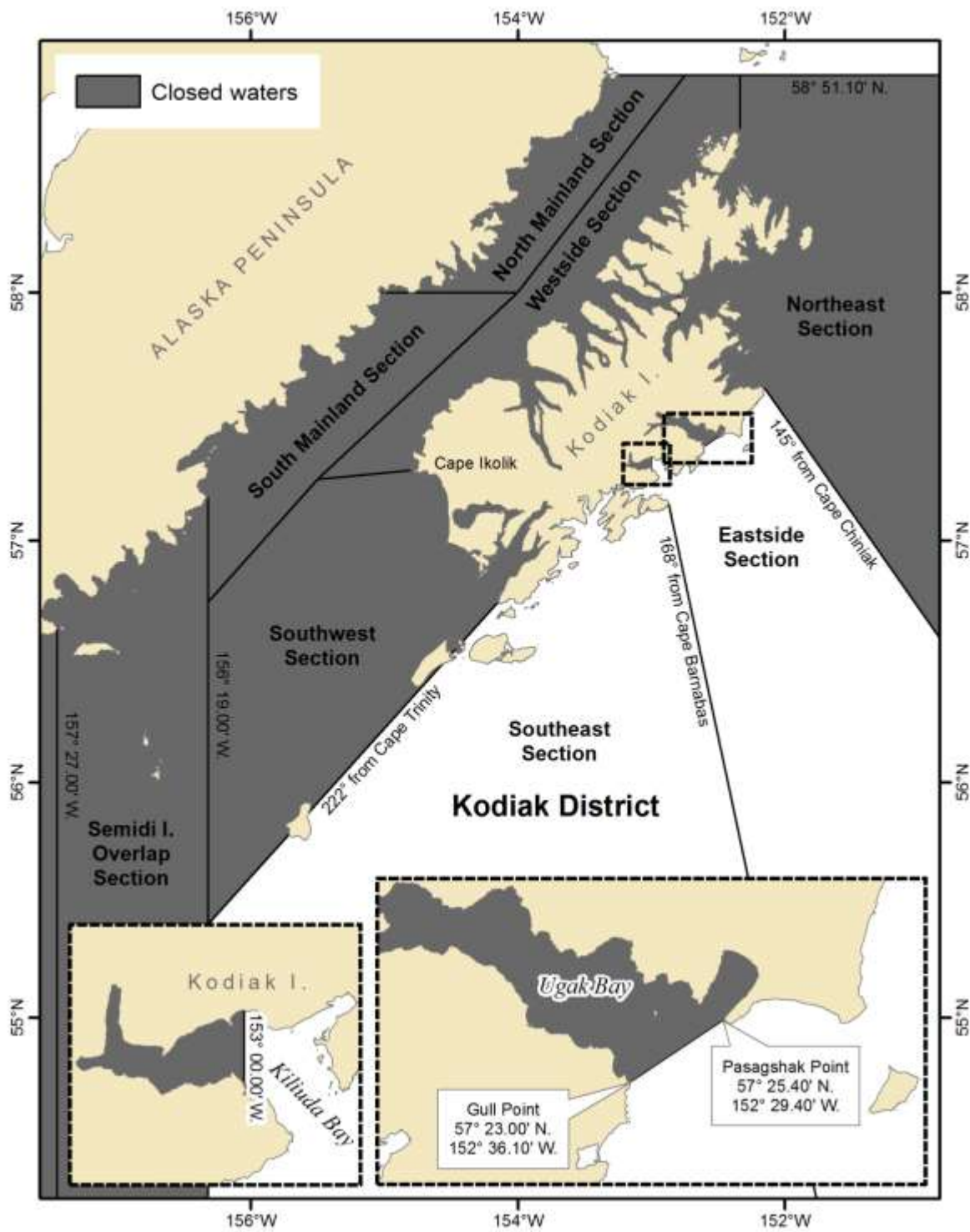
The 2013 Tanner crab GHL in the Eastern Section of the South Peninsula District is set at 230,000 pounds. Harvest rates in the Eastern Section will be monitored inseason and subsection closures may occur based on fishery performance and harvest distribution. Due to the uneven distribution of legal Tanner crab in the Eastern Section, a portion of the GHL may be reserved for offshore effort.

The estimated mature male abundance in the Western Section of the South Peninsula District was above the biological threshold for opening a fishery but below the long-term average of estimated mature male abundance. In this situation, a regulatory harvest rate of 10 percent is applied to the estimated abundance of molting mature male crab. Results of the 2012 ADF&G trawl survey indicate the majority of legal crab in the Western Section are post recruit (old shell) crab. The high proportion of post recruit crab resulted in a regulatory GHL below the required 200,000 pounds necessary to open a commercial fishery. Therefore the Western Section will remain closed in 2013.

Districts and sections assigned GHLS in 2013 are scheduled to open to commercial Tanner crab fishing at NOON on January 15, 2013 unless delayed by weather. Additional information regarding buoy tags, registration, weather delays, inseason catch reporting, and fishery management actions will be provided in subsequent news releases prior to the season opening.

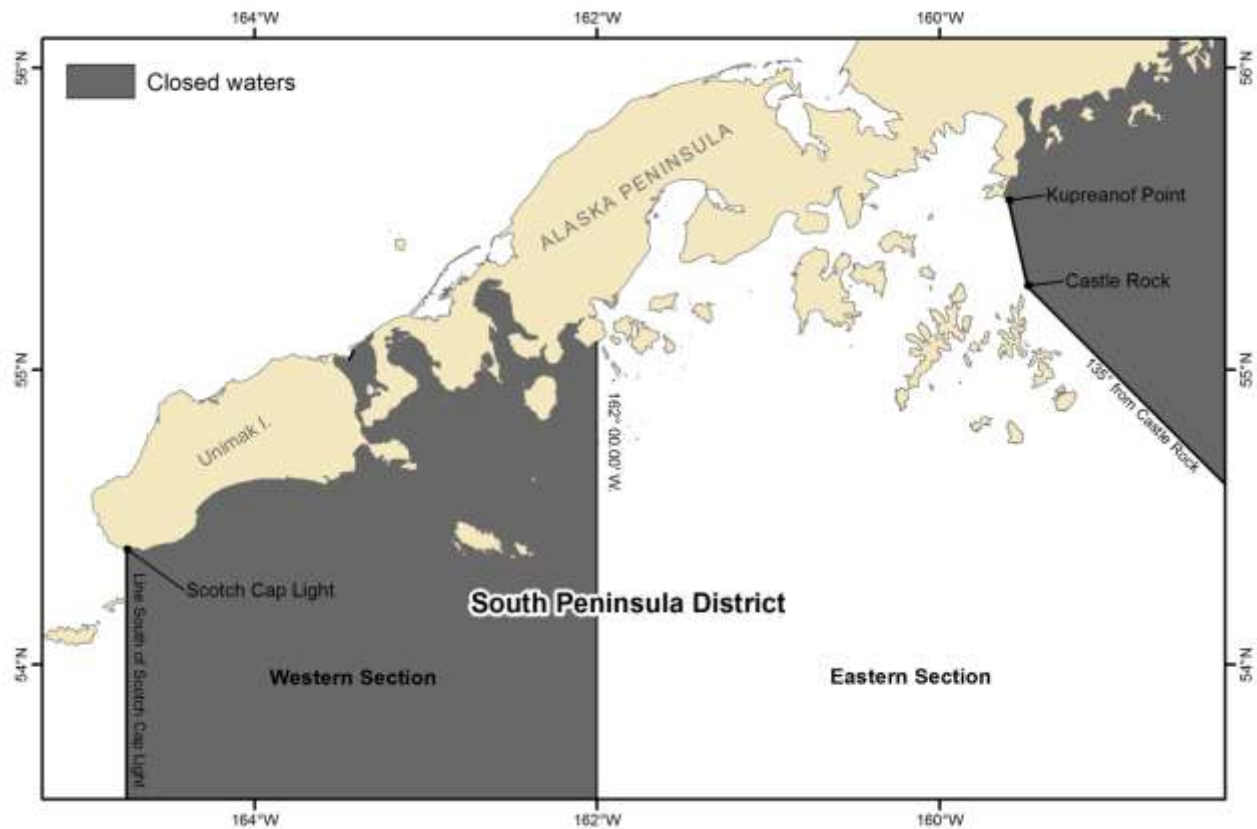
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Kodiak District closed waters for the 2013 commercial Tanner crab season.



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South Peninsula District closed waters for the 2013 commercial Tanner crab season.



For additional information, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

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